

# SPARK GAP

Vol. 32, Issue 11, November 2015 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-two years*

## On Our MARC...

Many thanks to the MARC member that took part in the annual Goblin Patrol on Halloween night. It was a cool rainy evening to be sitting there watching the bridges to keep our freeways safe in an effort to thwart mischievous Halloween pranksters over I-65. It was also considered an ARES test. I understand that there were 16 checks ins. I don't have a list of who was out there. But again, thank you. I'm sure Bob LaGrange and Dave Daily will fill us in at the meeting on how we did.

For those of you who missed the November dinner social at Jockamo's, you missed out on a lot of good company and good conversation. We had 11 people show up. Our Dec dinner social will be December 9th. I know it is a Wednesday but there are some people that can't make it on Tuesday nights and asked to make it Wednesday every once in a while. Location right now is unknown. We are looking at two different places.

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club plans to offer a 1-day review on the Technician Class License on Saturday February 13th, 2016. The presentation is scheduled to begin at 8am in the training room of the White River Township FD Station #53, at 850 S. Mullinix, Greenwood, IN. More information to follow as the date gets closer.

Please mark your calendar for December 19th. This is our annual holiday meeting. It will be a pitch in breakfast.

Just a reminder that our dues expire December 31st, so please remember to renew your membership. Your support of MARC is appreciated.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving. The cruise ship is calling me!

Jacki KI6QOG  
President

The Mid-State Amateur Radio club in cooperation with the Johnson County Sheriff's department patrolled the interstate overpasses in an effort to thwart mischievous Halloween pranksters. This is the twenty-eight year for our late night ride.



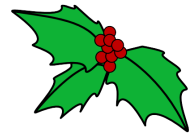
HAPPY THANKSGIVING



WS9H-Rhonda Curtis  
W9TEJ-Ron Koons  
KC9YHX-Michael Ney  
K9ICP-Bruce Tisdale  
W9YD-John Wampner

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## DECEMBER 2015 M.A.R.C. MEETING



The December M.A.R.C. meeting will be held at our usual location at 8:00 A.M. In keeping with the Christmas Season there will be a pitch-in breakfast. Members are encouraged to bring their favourite thing for breakfast and share it with the rest of the group. The club has done this for the past few years and it has been something to look forward to and also enjoyed by all that attend.

If you would like to contribute to this annual breakfast feast please bring what you like for breakfast so everyone there can enjoy.

..... Editor



*2012 Breakfast Feast*

# Goblin Patrol 2015

Johnson County highways and by-ways were rendered safe Beggars Night 2015 as sixteen MARC hams watched for possible Pumpkin Chucker's throwing items off I-65 overpasses. The Mid-State Amateur Radio club in cooperation with the Johnson County Sheriff's department patrolled the interstate overpasses in an effort to thwart mischievous Halloween pranksters. This is the twenty-eight year for our late night ride.

Dave Daily-KB9LOT ran the NET from the RACES EOC radio room while ARES EC Bob LaGrange-N9SIU covered another bridge location and monitored the Saturday evening Net. This exercise not only helped out county law enforcement but counted as an official ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

Steve Ellis-AF9SE and Jack Parker-W8ISH anchored the Greensburg road overpass in southern Johnson county while dozens of other club members secured I-65 overpasses further up the interstate to making I-65 driving safe for the evening travelers. Bob Jones-KC9NJM was assigned the new Worthsville road overpass. He said the deck surface was done but the side walls still needed to be poured making it a dangerous venue for Halloween tricksters. Bob did not see activity on the bridge all evening.

Further north Rusty Kirts-N9LLP and friend Cindy covered the Tracy Road overpass. Rusty's Crown Vic drew a lot of attention, in fact, too much attention. He was reported as a suspicious vehicle by several people. It did help keep the little beggars away. Ken and Maryls Barr-KD9ALA and KC9BHM reported making their selves comfortable watching out for devious doers. The Goblin Patrol is quickly becoming a couple's night out.

Meanwhile, down the road Phil Melick-AE9H counted about a hundred vehicles going by while watching the Road 300 Bridge. Phil reports, "I had lots of time to count them and one Johnson County Sheriff's Deputy, who stopped to talk. He was very friendly and appreciated our being out there." Mike Rose KC9WLR and another unidentified ham circulated throughout the area looking for anything out of place.

Our thanks for the great turnout. Other Goblin Patrol participants will be recognized at the November M.A.R.C. meeting.

*photo by Jack W8ISH*



**In the darkness of the night,  
Steve AF9SE watches the bridge.**

# **KERCHUNK**

**kerchunk:** Either a verb or noun, but usually a verb. From the German \*kerchunken\*; to kerchunk a repeater.

**I kerchunk, you kerchunk, he/she/it kerchunks.**

**Whenever I kerchunk, I always identify. This not only keeps many from being “rubbed the wrong way”, but has resulted in many a nice QSO.**

**A good kerchunk tells you many things:**

- 1. Your transmitter is working**
- 2. Your receiver is working**
- 3. Your antenna is working**
- 4. The repeater is there**
- 5. The repeater receiver is working**
- 6. The repeater xmtr is working**
- 7. The repeater antenna(s) is/are working**
- 8. The call of the repeater**

**Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk. But it seems my kerchunk is always of higher quality than his kerchunk Moral to the story: NONE. There will soon be an ARRL award; “KAS”.**

**“I love the smell of kerchunk in the morning.”**

**There is a local chapter of KA soon to form in this area.**

**MFJ will soon market a Kerchunk Detector which will printout each month the date, time, and call for each and every kerchunk. This will result in the FCC charging 25 cents per kerchunk. It will be added to your income tax. The new 1040-K forms are being printed even as I type.**

**National Kerchunk Day will be established by congress next year. On this day ONLY kerchunking will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaging in a conversation will lose his kerchunking privileges for a period not to exceed 90 days.**

**Operators of the National Peoples Repeater in Peping have reported that when band conditions are right, there is much kerchunking by hams located in Taiwan.**

**Recently kerchunkers have been heard on twenty and seventy-five meters. Is this a trend? When I operate six meters, I sometimes kerchunk my neighbor’s TV.**

**Go on!! Make my day. Have you kerchunked YOUR repeater today?**

*..... Submitted by Chris KQ9Y, author unknown.*

# Maintain a Strict Listening Watch

**"We have two ears and one mouth and they are to be used in proportion." - Anonymous. In the days where every ship of credibility carried a Morse code set, the radio operator was required to maintain radio silence on the international distress frequency of 500 KHz for a three minute interval, at 15 and 45 minutes of every hour. As radiotelephone came into being a 3 minute watch was maintained at 0 and 30 minutes. If the disaster your vessel encountered fit within the 30 minute schedule, your weak, plaintive CQD (later, SOS) had a good chance of being heard amidst all the commercial traffic and noise.**

**Today, satellite communications systems have forced these "antiquated" structures into retirement, but not entirely. A few years ago I enjoyed a tour of a huge container ship at Boston Harbor. After pleasantries with the Captain I asked for permission to meet his Radio Officer. "Our Engineer holds that title," he told me, "but in reality," with the Captain putting his hands on a piece of satellite gear, "this is our Radio Officer." Paying deference to the captain and the high tech gear, I then headed straight for the radio room - thankfully they still had one -- and were warmly greeted by a middle-aged man of professional bearing in full white uniform.**

**There, in a large space, were three racks, each with a high powered HF transmitter. The wise officer revealed his best-kept secret to safety: "Should we be going down," he said, opening a small desk drawer, "I'm using this." A rather sturdy Morse hand key was revealed, and there began an understanding between us. "The satellites don't talk back," he told me. "This does."**

*..... ARRL Bulletin November 2015*

## INDIANA HAMFESTS

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/13/2016 | 5th Annual Brownsburg Hamfest

Location: Brownsburg, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.hcars.org>

Civic Auditorium

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/27/2016 | Cabin Fever HamFest

Location: LaPorte, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.lpcarc.org/>

Dugger Community Building

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/27/2016 | DUGGER HAMFEST 2016

Location: Dugger, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dugger Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/550912628262491/>

Monroe County Fairgrounds

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

09/17/2016 | Bloomington ARC Hamfest

Location: Bloomington, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.bloomingtonradio.org>

# MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center, Conference Room 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

## WA9RDF Repeaters:

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

## WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

## Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG  
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale -- K9ICP  
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H  
Treasurer: Cy Young – N9CHY  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Franklin, Indiana  
46131

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3rd of the month

**Remember Club Dues for 2016 are due; please see Cy Young N9CHY at the meeting Saturday.**

